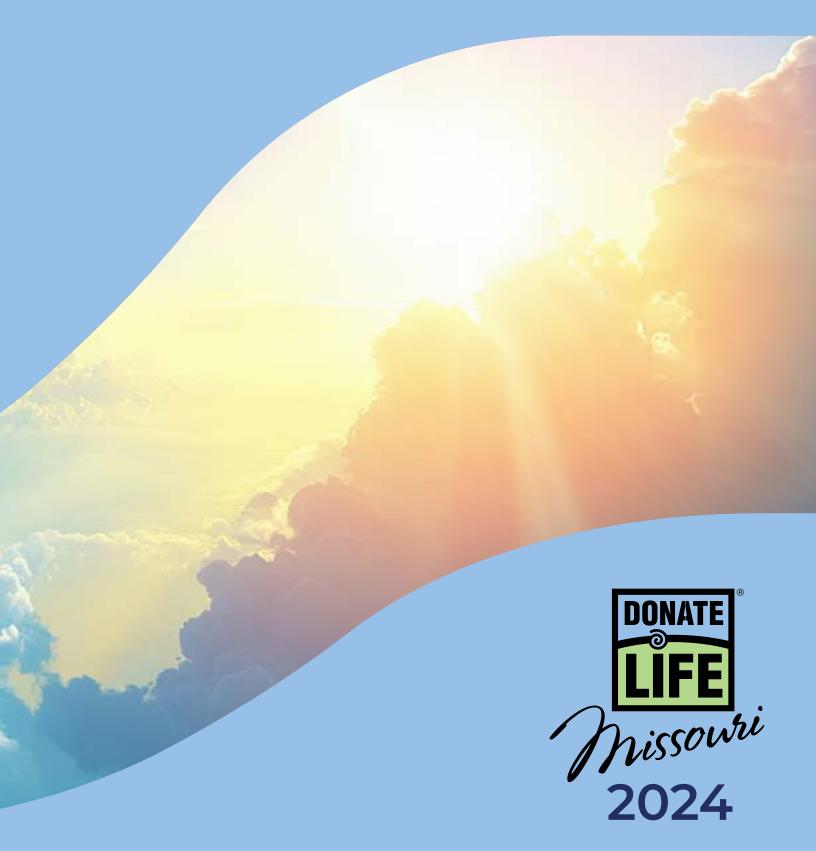
# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Organ Donation Advisory Committee** 





I am forever grateful. Someone selflessly gave me the gift of sight, and it's overwhelming. What did I do to deserve such love and compassion?

Matt Johnson, Cornea Recipient

### Read Matt's story on page 7



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From the **Chairperson** 

cross our great state of Missouri, over 1,500 individuals are patiently awaiting a life-saving organ transplant. The dedication of healthcare professionals, volunteers, and the Organ Donation Advisory Committee (ODAC) underscores the collective commitment to raising awareness about donation as they work tirelessly to inform the public about the critical importance of organ, tissue, and eye donation.

As we embark on a new year with a new administration, I am excited about the opportunities for collaboration that will ensure all Missourians are equipped with the information they need to make a positive impact on others. The Missouri Organ and Tissue Donor Program is dedicated to maintaining a statewide donor registry by promoting health and safety through prevention, collaboration, education, innovation, and response.

While we have made significant progress in expanding the donor registry, it is vital to continue spreading the word to ensure the registry continues to grow. Now more than ever, sharing this message is a matter of life and death. We dream of the day when no one has to wait for a transplant and every life is given a fighting chance.

Let us continue to support and celebrate the selfless acts of our donor heroes, ensuring that their legacies live on through the lives they save.

Until no one is waiting.

Sincerely, Kevin Lee



Paula F. Nickelson

# From the **Director**

HSS extends our gratitude to the Organ Donation Advisory Committee. Your commitment to advancing organ, eye and tissue donation initiatives drives the collective success in Missouri. Your support and guidance enrich the committee's endeavors, communities, the Organ and Tissue Donor Program and the Donate Life Missouri Registry by fostering a culture of collaboration, generosity and compassion.

Your invaluable contributions have been pivotal in creating a legacy of hope and healing. We must remain vigilant, collaborative and focused for several reasons. This is the first year we have seen a decline in the the Donate Life Missouri Registry growth. Two, performance measures changed for organ procurement organizations (OPOs). We are thankful we have two of the highest-performing OPOs serving Missouri. Third, reduce the need for kidney and liver transplants by collaborating with local communities to educate, provide services and improve the health of Missourians.

The department takes this moment to thank Mary Ann Burns for her service as she steps away from the committee and for her continued commitment to encouraging Missourians to register their decisions in the Donate Life Missouri Registry and to share their decisions with family. We also want to welcome Annie Kuhl, Dr. John Duckett and Lori Pace to the committee. We look forward to feedback, guidance, and recommendations. Welcome to the team!

We give special thanks to those registered as donors and those who advocate for organ, eye and tissue donation. We are profoundly grateful for your generosity.

Respectfully, Paula F. Nickelson

# **Advisory Committee Members**



Kevin Lee

Chairperson Term: 2022-Present Organ Procurement Organization



Lori Clark

Vice-Chairperson Term: 2024-Present Organ Procurement Organization



Member Term: 1999-Present Organ Procurement Organization



Peter Nicastro

Member Term: 2006-Present Organ Recipient



Lori Pace

Member Term: 2024-Present Organ Donor/ Recipient/Family



Annie Kuhl

MemberTerm: 2024-Present Tissue Procurement Organization



John Duckett

Member Term: 2024-Present Hospital Representative



Secretary Term: 2006-Present **DHSS** Representative

The committee recommends expenditure priorities from the Organ Donor Program Fund; assists in the development of organ donor awareness programs and submits an annual report of activities and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Department of Health and Senior Services Director (RSMo 194.297, 194.299, and 194.302). The committee is dedicated to this service through collaboration with partners across the state.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Since the change in how committee appointments are made during the 2023 legislative session, the Department has appointed three new members to the committee. We welcome, Annie Kuhl, Lori Pace and John Duckett. New policies have been implemented and the committee will be working on Bylaws in FY25. If you are an organ or tissue recipient, a recipient family member, or a living donor and want to learn more about the committee, visit https://health.mo.gov/living/organdonor/committee.php.

While the Organ Donor Program Fund is the only source of funding for the program and the Donate Life Missouri Registry, the committee recommends that the Department not pursue any fundraising strategies at this time. The Donate Life Missouri Facebook page has been retired, and the Department assured the committee of an increase in postings related to organ, eye and tissue donation on facebook. com/HealthyLivingMo. If you are not a follower of this page, follow today.



### **Advisory Committee Members**

Saying Goodbye by Mary Ann Burns



Mary Ann Burns served the Committee from August 24. 2021-June 29, 2023.

As I step down from the committee and consider my obligations and priorities, I send you my best.

I am and will continue to be passionate about eye, tissue and organ donation, as our extended family has been greatly affected

as both donors and recipients. As a member, it was my goal to learn all that I could and be an active, informed and contributing member of the committee. I have certainly learned so much about the services, processes and personal testimonies of some amazing people.

I sincerely thank each of you for all you do to advocate and promote the lifesaving work of eye, tissue and organ donation. Please know that I, too, will continue to encourage friends and family to consider being a life-giver.

All my best and I look forward to when our paths cross again.

Mary Ann Burns, Member

"On behalf of present and past members, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary Ann for her compassion, dedication and understanding. We have benefited from knowing and serving alongside of Mary Ann."

Kevin Lee, Chairperson



### Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

**Donor Family Recognition Program** by Ian Collins

#### **Organizations Involved**

Many organizations assisted the Department with the 2024 Donor Family Recognition Program. Their support made this event possible for our Missouri families whose loved ones were organ, eye and or tissue donors.

Organ Donation Advisory
Committee
Mid-America Transplant
Midwest Transplant Network
Saving Sight
Gift of Life
Missouri Kidney Program
Missouri Department of
Conservation
Missouri Department of

Revenue, Motor Vehicles Division

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company

City of Jefferson

First Baptist Church of

Jefferson City

River City Florist-Jefferson

City

Natural Grocers-Jefferson City



A donor family honoring their loved one's legacy of giving life at the April 16, 2024 Donor Family Recognition Program.

### **Donor Family Recognition Program** by Ian Collins

The ninth annual Donor Family Recognition program was held on April 16, 2024, in Jefferson City, MO. The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Organ and Tissue Donor Program and its partners, listed in the sidebar, honored the legacy of 134 organ, eye and tissue donors from across Missouri.

Donor families had the opportunity to visit Midwest Transplant Network, Mid-America Transplant, Saving Sight and Gift of Life located in the Capitol's third-floor rotunda. While at the Capitol, families enjoyed interacting with other families, visiting the museum and participating in one of the guided tours.

The Donor Family Recognition program took place at the First Baptist Church of Jefferson City. Families enjoyed painting mini canvases, making bracelets, and sharing experiences.

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Many families braved the rainy weather to visit the Donor Paver Stone that honors Missouri organ, eye, and tissue donors located on Adrien's Island. Flower seeds donated from Baker Creek Heirloom and plants from the Missouri Department of Conservation were given to families to plant in honor of their loved ones. Natural Grocers of Jefferson City provided healthy snacks for families to enjoy, the organ and tissue procurement organizations provided a reception, and River City Florist generously provided flowers for the event. Families were provided a picture of their loved one in a photo mat with the words "Lived Life, Gave Life" to place on the dedication wall. DHSS Director Paula F. Nickelson presented a certificate and tribute coin to each donor family during the ceremony. Program speakers shared powerful stories of how donation or transplantation impacted their lives. Families

were given the opportunity to share stories of their loved ones during the event. Many powerful and emotional stories were shared.

The Donor Family Recognition is a memorable event that brings together families with a shared experience many do not understand. It is a time to reflect on their loved ones and the gift of life they provided to, in many cases, a total stranger. Families and those who could not attend were provided with a private link to a video of the ceremony.

Planning is underway for the 2025 event to be held on April 16, 2025. The Organ and Tissue Donor Program looks forward to working with partners and sponsors on this ever-growing, and humbling event.



The King family pointing at the photo of their donor hero at the 2024 Donor Family Recognition Program.



279
Donor Family
Participants

134
Donors
Honored

133 Videos Viewed













Photographs of a few of the donor families that attended the annual Donor Family Recognition Program to celebrate and honor their loved one's life-saving and life-healing gifts. Families took home framed pictures of their loved ones.



### A New View on Life:

### Matt's Cornea Transplant Journey by Jonah Durbin

For Matt, a cornea transplant meant the difference between fading vision and a world brought back into focus. Matt's journey began unexpectedly after a seemingly minor ear infection ruptured as he slept. His eye touched the pillowcase where discharge from his ruptured eardrum lay and got under his contact which led to a rare fungal infection, causing severe vision impairment.

After initial treatment from his primary ophthalmologist, Matt was referred to Dr. Kenneth Goins at the University of Kansas Health System. "I learned about Saving Sight and a little about what could happen, and we talked about possibly looking for a donor," Matt said. Tests revealed the fungal infection in his eye was progressing rapidly, and Dr. Goins informed him he'd need a cornea transplant to preserve any hope of sight. "They were concerned I could lose 100% of my eyesight, and I needed a transplant ASAP," Matt recalled. Despite the challenges, he stayed focused on the possibility of regaining his sight.

Matt's experience with transplants started years before his cornea surgery when he received a lifesaving kidney transplant from a living donor. That experience helped shape his understanding of the power of eye, organ and tissue donation, but it wasn't until he faced potential blindness that he fully appreciated how vital even the smallest parts of the body can be. "I didn't know how much a single tissue could impact someone's life until I was faced with losing my sight," he said. "It's incredible that two people have now given me this chance to live fully." For Matt, the cornea transplant stands as a reminder of the selflessness of donors and the profound difference their gifts make.

Gratitude fills Matt's heart as he speaks of the donor who made this possible. "I am forever grateful. Someone selflessly gave me the gift of sight, and it's overwhelming. What did I do to deserve such love and compassion?" he said. The impact of his donor's gift goes beyond Matt's renewed vision—it's a testament to human kindness and the power of eye, organ and tissue donation.

To those unfamiliar with the impact of donation, Matt has a simple message: "You might be able to save someone's life or change their world just by checking that box on your license. It's a chance to help someone in a way that goes far beyond what we can understand."

As he continues to recover and adjust to his new vision, Matt hopes to honor his donor's legacy by sharing his story and encouraging others to become registered donors. "I cherish every moment now," he said. "This gift has truly opened my eyes."



"The cornea transplant stands as a reminder of the selflessness of donors and the profound difference their gifts make."



### Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

#### Organ Donor Program Fund by Virginia Beatty

Missourians are generous people. Many contribute to the Organ Donor Program Fund while visiting their local license office. At the local office, they can contribute a dollar or more at the time of their transaction or when renewing their license plate. They also can order a "Be A Donor" license plate. For FY24, Missourians donated over \$350,000 through their local offices.

Since January 2023, the state treasurer has invested funds not required for immediate disbursement. Investing contributions that the generous people of this state voluntarily provide embodies responsible planning and management and encapsulates the

Department of Health and Senior Services strategic value of integrity. The investment earned \$21,820.74 in FY24.

All financial gifts to the Organ Donor Program Fund support the Donate Life Missouri Registry, the annual Donor Family Recognition Program, education efforts and the Organ and Tissue Donor Program. To learn more about how to give, visit https://donatelifemissouri.org/get-involved/make-a-monetary-contribution/.

FY 2024							
7.1.2023 - 6.30.2024							
		Budgeted		Actual			
Available Beginning Cash Balance	\$	550,209.95	\$	550,209.95			
Revenue	\$	350,760.00	\$	388,093.66			
Expenses							
Personnel	\$	(259,145.52)	\$	(249,601.83)			
Education & Program Initiatives	\$	(117,740.00)	\$	(55,603.72)			
Program Operations	\$	(16,560.00)	\$	(13,961.31)			
Registry Operations	\$	(158,804.00)	\$	(208,713.70)			
Refunds	\$	(25.00)	\$	0.00			
Projected Available Ending Cash Balance			\$	42,4353.36			
Dept. Operations & Network Costs			\$	12,3623.39			
Fund Ending Cash Balance			\$	547,976.75			



## Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

#### Program Highlights by Virginia Beatty

#### **Donate Life Missouri Registry**

During the winter/spring of 2024, a complete review of the Department of Revenue (DOR) driver's license and the Registry system processes was completed. This action was crucial to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) commitment to Registry accuracy and reliability and, as part of the Department's strategic priority, invest in innovation to make infrastructure modern. The review confirmed that processes work as intended and that the data is secure.

Design changes were made with the user in mind, making it easier for people to add, change, print or delete their Donate Life Missouri Registry record. Improvements also featured pop-ups that guide the public in simple and easy-to-understand language and an electronic signature block for the online removal process for consistent legal documentation.

The DHSS is working with the Office of Administration to establish a single-feasible source contract with the current Registry vendor to ensure steady and reliable service for our users. The contract is expected to be awarded in FY25.

We are grateful, humbled and inspired by the over 4,400,000 Missourians who have chosen to be registered donors, providing hope to those waiting by being potential donors who can heal or save lives in the future.

#### My Transplant Ready Workbook - 2nd Edition

DHSS' Organ and Tissue Donor Program partnered with the Missouri Kidney Program on the second edition of the My Transplant Ready Workbook. This workbook includes caregiver tips, living donation information, processes and steps along the way, tips, expanded resources and end-of-life documentation. Designed to be a comprehensive guide for patients and their caregivers navigating the complex kidney transplant journey, the workbook serves as a valuable resource for organizing crucial information, contacts and personal reflections. The workbook is available in English and Spanish languages at https://mokp.org/education/patient-education/.

Eighty-five percent of people waiting for an organ transplant in Missouri are waiting for a kidney. The workbook guides dialysis patients and others who want and are eligible for a kidney transplant through the complex process using



clear language and graphics. DHSS and the Missouri Kidney Program aim to improve access to services for dialysis patients seeking a kidney transplant, another DHSS strategic priority.

If you are waiting for a kidney transplant and would like a mentor, a person who has gone through the process, please contact the Gift of Life Mentor Program by calling 1-913-951-4524 or visit their website at https://giftdonor.org/programs/transplant-mentors/ for more information.

#### **Celebrated 55 Years!**

Missouri has a long history of supporting organ, eye and tissue donation. The first Uniform Anatomical Gift Act drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; established a legal document of gift for all 50 states, identified who could donate a deceased person's organs and enabled anyone over 18 to legally donate his or her organs upon death. Missouri passed its version of the act in 1969.

Other milestones during these past 55 years include several revisions to the anatomical gift act, Missouri's registry system going from a physical card system with multiple levels of security measures to a highly sophisticated electronic system where the public can amend or remove their decision 24/7.

The Program has expanded to not only provide education and awareness, but to host an annual statewide Donor Family Recognition Program.

There are too many milestones to list here, however, we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge that all efforts in Missouri are collaborative in nature. Key partners that make life-healing and life-saving



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measures in Missouri possible are the organizations listed througout these pages. Together we partner to inform, educate, inspire and help heal and save lives. And all of this is possible by the generous people of Missouri. Thank you.

#### **Learn Life Savers**

The Organ and Tissue Donor Program is partnering with the Gift of Life, reaching out to public school districts across the state. School boards are being asked to watch a presentation about the program and determine if they will implement the online program within their district's high school(s). This free online program educates students about being asked if they want to be a donor at their local license office. The program encourages students to talk to a loved one about donations and any decisions they have made. The program includes an online teacher lesson plan, additional resources and short videos. No student information is collected as part of the online course.

#### **Community Outreach**

The Organ and Tissue Donor Program and its partners participated in the 2024 Missouri State Fair with a booth in the Mathewson Exhibition Center to hand out educational material. Partners included Midwest Transplant Network, Gift of Life, Missouri Kidney Program, Missouri General Federation of Women's Clubs, and Mid-America Transplant. There were 2,184 public interactions, 384 more than the 2023 Missouri State Fair. During these interactions, staff and partner volunteers met 42 transplant recipients, four living donors, 38 donor families and eight individuals waiting for a transplant.

The program presented information about the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation across the State of Missouri. In 2024, it reached more than 1,600 Missourians through health fairs and places of worship that requested information and presentations. The program continues to expand outreach and education efforts and build community relationships.

The staff is embarking on a new partnership with



Julie Hisle joined the Organ and Tissue Donor Program team in February 2024. She has a background in public service in the State of Kansas. Julie's role as Administrative Support is crucial in the day-to-day operations of the program and Donate Life Missouri Registry.

Her professionalism and kind nature put the public at ease when communicating about the program and registry. She assists with registry processes, travel, communications, purchases, meetings, the Donor Family Recognition Program and much more. Julie is integral to the overall success of the Organ and Tissue Donor Program.

We are happy to have her on the team.

the Missouri General Federation of Women's Clubs, which officially kicks off in FY25. This partnership will result in education efforts through newsletters, social media posts, material for community outreach, etc. DHSS looks forward to this new partnership and the opportunity it brings to educate Missourians and to gain life-long advocates for organ, eye and tissue donation.

Lastly, the program has re-established its partnership with the Missouri Broadcaster's Association. A digital and radio campaign will be implemented in FY25.





### Missouri Department of Conservation by Jake Buxton

The year 2024 marked the fifth year the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) sponsored the Donor Family Recognition program, which takes place annually in April. MDC provided swamp milkweed plant roots for each of the donor families to plant in honor and memory of loved ones who gave the gift of life. The milkweed plant is also a source of life for monarch butterflies that provides food and nesting materials.

The MDC continues to be an active partner in enrolling participants into the Donate Life Missouri Registry through our online hunting and fishing permit purchasing portal and our website through the heart symbol link. We thank our hunters and anglers for their support and for registering as organ, eye, and tissue donors. We look forward to our continued collaboration to help heal and save lives.



mdc.mo.gov



### Missouri Kidney Program by Lisa Parnell, Director

The Missouri Kidney Program (MoKP) is a state funded organization that provides financial assistance for eligible Missourians who suffer from End-Stage-Renal-Disease or have received a kidney transplant.

The program additionally supports education and research. The program also partners with dialysis and transplant centers to assist in reducing the burden of the national kidney wait list.

### **Transplant Assistance**

MoKP provides reimbursements for non-medical related expenses for kidney transplant recipients and/or a living donor. This can include lost wages due to time off work for surgery or travel expenses. There are many hurdles to obtaining a transplant and these funds help alleviate some of those barriers.

MoKP also fosters relationships with the transplant centers and dialysis clinics in the state, while exploring other opportunities to support the chronic kidney disease community. To learn more about MoKP, visit: Assistance Provided – Missouri Kidney Program (https://mokp.org/financial-assistance/assistance-provided/).

### **Impacting Lives**

MoKP encourages their mission through ongoing

collaborations with valuable partnerships, including the Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) with the University of Missouri.

Missouri Kidney Program team members include Rhonda Victor, Lionelle Miller, Anna Sumner, Lisa Parnell, Valerie Hardesty, Melissa Krapf and Tammy Turner. CKD ECHO offers short didactics and case presentations from medical health professionals. The CKD ECHO webinars occur on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 12:00pm until 1:00pm CST. Show Me ECHO is offering Maintenance of Certificate Part II credits for the Kidney ECHO program. Join the Kidney ECHO series at <a href="https://showmeecho.org/clinics/kidney-disease/">https://showmeecho.org/clinics/kidney-disease/</a>.

# My Transplant-Ready Workbook – Second Edition

In the spring of this year, the Department of Health and Senior Services collaborated with MoKP and Health Literacy Media to complete the second edition of the "My Transplant-Ready Workbook", which was published in English and Spanish languages were distributed to every dialysis clinic and transplant center in the State of Missouri, for their patients who are ready to pursue transplant. Complimentary workbooks are available by request or can be downloaded at Patient Education — Missouri Kidney Program (https://mokp.org/education/patient-education/).

MoKP Director Lisa Parnell presented the "My Transplant-Ready Workbook" at the November meeting for the ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative (ETCLC) members.





### Gift of Life

#### Saving One Life at a Time by Kim Harbur

For 26 years Gift of Life located in Kansas City has saved one life at a time. This is accomplished with two programs: Life Savers and Transplant Mentors.

#### **Life Savers**

"Do you want to be a donor?" is asked at the DMV when applying for a driver's license. The Life Savers high school education program educates students about this question so they can make an informed decision. They are also encouraged to share their decision with a loved one...because the conversation matters. This program is offered in person to high school classrooms within the Kansas City and St. Louis metropolitan areas. All districts across the state of Missouri are offered an online version of Life Savers. This free resource (learnlifesavers.com) can be accessed by any teacher in the state.

For the 2023-2024 school year, a total of 662 high school classroom presentations were completed in Kansas City and St. Louis by Gift of Life. We reached 15,008 high school students in the classroom and they shared their decision about donation with 26,570 individuals. The online program is being used in school districts across the state, but we continue to present to school boards in Missouri about leanlifesavers.com and encourage additional school districts to implement this program as part of their curriculum.

Gift of Life has expanded educational outreach to adults as well.

#### **Transplant Mentors**

A Transplant Mentor is a connection to insight, education, support and encouragement directly from someone who has traveled on a similar journey. You can never have enough support. Mentees regularly tell us they have had a better experience because they were able to connect with someone who had been through the transplant process themself. Transplant Mentors is a free resource for anyone who is considering a transplant or living donation, received a transplant, or is a care partner. Talking to someone who has had a similar experience can instill confidence, calm nerves and provide hope to see positive outcomes. Gift of Life has assisted over 1,000 families on the transplant journey with our Transplant Mentors program.

Gift of Life empowers high school students, supports transplant patients, living donors and care givers and helps transform loss into hope.

Please visit giftdonor.org to learn more.





## **Mid-America Transplant**

#### Lifesaver Awarded by Dee Anderson-Preston

Each year, the Donate Life America (DLA) recognizes the dedication of DMV staff and offices through regional and national awards presented at American Association of Motor Vehicles Administrators (AAMVA) conferences across the country. This year, I had the honor of nominating Sanela Hall, Manager of the South Kingshighway Agent Office, for the Lifesaver Award. This award acknowledges a DMV or DMV staff member who demonstrates exceptional commitment to saving lives through their support of the donate life mission. Sanela truly embodies this commitment.

Sanela has gone above and beyond by attending Lunch & Learn sessions at Mid-America Transplant's main office, where she learned more about our processes and met transplant recipients. She has also organized similar learning sessions for her staff at the South Kingshighway License Office. Additionally, Sanela and her team distribute Donate

Life informational brochures and display signage throughout the office, ensuring that customers have easy access to this important information while waiting in line.

When asked about the importance of the mission, Sanela shared, "Before, I would ask the two-part registry question because it was part of my job. But after meeting recipients and seeing a close friend benefit from the gift of life, I no longer just ask the question because it's my job. I ask because I've seen firsthand how one simple 'yes' can save and heal lives."

I am proud to share, in June, DLA announced Sanela not only won the regional award but also the national award. In October, Sanela and I traveled to Fargo, ND, where she accepted this prestigious award, and I had the privilege of representing the DLA by presenting at the awards luncheon and hosting an informational awareness table.



Robin Rehborg, Deputy Director for Drivers Safety, North Dakota Department of Transportation; Dee Preston-Anderson-Community Engagement Coordinator, Public Education and DMV; Sanela Hall-Manager, South Kingshighway Agent Office, St Louis and Ian Grossman, President and CEO, AAMVA



### **Midwest Transplant Network**

### Transforming, Strengthening, and Engaging by Nichole Asquith

# Transforming Lives Through Community Engagement

Saying "yes" to donation starts in the community, ensuring that Missouri residents are educated and informed when our partners at license offices ask, "Do you want to be a registered organ, eye and tissue donor?" Over the past year, Midwest Transplant Network (MTN) participated in more than 95 community events, totaling nearly 700 volunteer hours dedicated to sharing awareness and encouraging people in Missouri to give hope and share life through donation.

# Strengthening Communities Through Education

One of MTN's roles involves educating the public about the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation. This work extends to valued partnerships with local Departments of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when meeting people at a key decision-making moment - registering as organ donors. MTN's team engages in office visits, provides resource materials, and offers training sessions to DMV staff. Through direct community engagement, MTN is increasing donor registrations and fostering a culture of giving.

### **Partnerships Lead to Impact**

MTN has established meaningful partnerships with diverse organizations to increase outreach efforts. Collaborations with St. James United Methodist Church, The Bridge 90.9 FM and Telemundo Kansas City have been pivotal in reaching diverse communities. For instance, through St. James United Methodist Church, MTN connects with faith-based communities to address myths and offer education that builds trust and empathy. Telemundo Kansas City serves as a vital link to Spanish-speaking communities, ensuring that no one is left out of the conversation about donation and transplantation. Each year on National Donor Day, which is also Valentine's Day, MTN and The Bridge 90.9 have personal conversations with donor hero families, transplant recipients, living donors and many who represent the organ, eye

and tissue donation community. They share their stories in their voices and inspire listeners to become registered donors.

### **Engaging Events and Celebrations**

MTN's presence at community events underscores its commitment to meeting people where they are to listen and have conversations. At the Kansas City Juneteenth Heritage Festival, MTN hosted an interactive booth to educate about the donation process and the impact on recipients and their families; attending the Kansas City Pride Festival, through a partnership with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), was an opportunity to showcase the inclusive spirit of MTN's work. By celebrating diversity and inclusion, MTN reaches people across cultures and communities.

MTN regularly attends community health fairs to share information and to encourage a better understanding of how everyone can contribute to the mission of saving lives.

### **Giving Time and Talent**

MTN's remarkable team of Ambassador volunteers exemplify the spirit of giving. Over the past year, the MTN Ambassador team collectively dedicated more than 700 hours of their time from staffing information booths to speaking engagements to office support and educational workshops. This incredible group of donor family members, recipients and living donors share their passion and dedication and inspire people to join the mission, creating a ripple effect of awareness and action.

MTN appreciates the support and commitment to saving lives by all who share the message and mission.





### **Saving Sight**

# Effects of Eye Bank Donor Age Expansion on Corneal Endothelial Cell Density and Surgeon Tissue Acceptance by Jonah Durbin

In recent years, advancements in medical research have pushed the boundaries of what was once considered feasible in the field of ophthalmology. One such study observed the effect of the expansion of eye bank donor age on corneal endothelial cell density and surgeon acceptance rate of those tissues. Donor characteristics, endothelial cell density, and acceptance of tissues for use in surgery were compared between age groups in five-year intervals. The aim was clear: to assess how this expansion would influence the availability of corneal tissue for transplantation and challenge existing biases against older donors. Saving Sight was proud to partner with Dr. Roy Chuck and Ayobami Adebayo, among other researchers, to provide the corneal tissue used during this study.

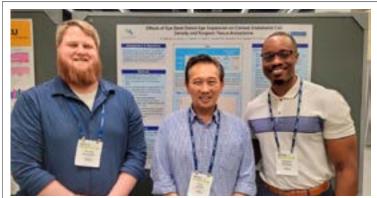
This single-site study featured 25,969 corneas from eye bank donors from 2018 – 2022 between the ages of 2 and 75. At the beginning of 2022, the donor age limit was increased to age 80, thus allowing donated tissue from older donors to be used in transplants. The age limit increase allowed an additional 411 more cornea donations, which led to 208 more transplants. The average endothelial cell density for the 71-75 age group was 2,349 cells/mm2, compared to 2227 cells/mm2 in donors aged 76-80. The difference of 122 cells/mm2 doesn't seem like much, but the study saw that donors aged 71-75 had a 38% surgeon rejection rate, while those aged 76-80 had a 48% surgeon rejection rate.

There could be multiple reasons for the difference in surgeon rejection rate, but one could be age bias. Traditionally, corneas that come from older donors are looked at as not being viable while this study showed that corneas from older donors are still very viable for transplant. While there isn't a shortage of corneas for transplant in the U.S., there is a global shortage, resulting in patients in other countries waiting on the transplant list for months. "If we can expand the age pool to increase donations, that will increase transplants. And there is more room for growth in this area," said Ayobami Adebayo.

This study is important for the future of ophthalmology and eye banks due to a cornea shortage in other countries, and by increasing the

donor age limit, there will be more corneas available to use for transplant globally. Expanding the donor age limit and using those tissues in surgery can give the gift of sight to many more people who are in need across the globe. Potential age bias isn't the only factor in the difference in surgeon rejection rate, but it does show that more work needs to be done. "So, no matter what you do, there's still a bias against age and many things that we do in life, and that bias never disappears. So, you know, we can do one of two things. We can work to change everyone's mind just by talking to them. It's very difficult to do, and it's much easier for us to generate data, and that's what we're doing. That's the whole basis of research, you know, change thought by proving it with data," said Dr. Roy Chuck.

As researchers continue to navigate the complexities of eye, organ and tissue donation and transplantation, they remain committed to ensuring equitable access to sight-restoring treatments for all. By increasing the donor age limit there will be an increase in viable donor tissue for transplant, allowing those in underserved areas to receive the gift of sight. The journey to redefine how corneal donations are handled isn't solely about science; it's a moral duty with the chance to change lives by saving sight.



Midwest Transplant Network honored more than 1,700 donor families, transplant recipients and community partners at our eighth annual Donate Life Legacy Walk. The evening was filled with music from 2 Proud 2 Beg, food and memories. The Tribute Trail provided another year of moments of reflection and recognition for those who have been impacted by organ, eye and tissue donation. Join us for the 2025 Donate Life Legacy Walk on Saturday, June 7. Learn more here, https://mwtn.org/donate-life-legacy-walk



### Missouri Department of Revenue by Gina Wisch

The Department of Revenue (DOR) Motor Vehicle and Driver License (MVDL) division and its approximately 175 contracted license offices continue to support the donor registry during driver license processing, allowing elections for registry participation and monetary donations of \$1 or more during in-person and online transactions. Motor vehicle services also provide program support through issuance of the "Be An Organ Donor" specialty plate and the option for vehicle titling and registration customers to make monetary donations at the time of application. To learn more about how to obtain the "Be An Organ Donor" specialty plate visit the department's "Personalize and Reserve" web page at https://dor.mo.gov/motor-vehicle/plates/ personalizereserve.html.

The MVDL division deployed its modernized driver license and processing system statewide on November 12, 2024. The recent implementation is Phase 1 of a multi-phase project to modernize driver license and motor vehicle systems and processing. A part of this implementation included updates to the secure posting of application data for persons electing organ, eye and tissue donor registry participation.

"We want to thank our customers in advance for their patience and understanding during the transition. We are confident they will come to agree that it's a small inconvenience compared to the benefits the modernized system will provide once it becomes fully operational," said Missouri Department of Revenue Director Wayne



Wallingford, referencing the second and final phase of the modernization project, scheduled to roll out in July of 2026. "The second phase will be to the Department's motor vehicle system, which will enable the two systems to 'talk' to each other. This final enhancement will make transactions much more seamless for our customers and our frontline staff."

Phase II motor vehicle system work will begin in early 2025. The three-year project was made possible by 2021 legislation creating an auto dealer administrative fee for an Administrative Technology Fund dedicated to building a new integrated MVDL computer system. The new system will replace legacy systems within the Department that include more than 50 disparate driver license and motor vehicle software programs with limited ability to work together.

Some key improvements customers may now access are available through expanded eServices options such as online driver license renewal and duplicate requests for eligible credential holders. Online transactions will also present the required organ, eye and tissue donor registry participation election and optional donor symbol questions to requestors. To access online driver license services, visit https://mydmv2.mo.gov/TAP/\_/.



Order your Be An Organ Donor specialty plate at dor.mo.gov.
Click to learn how.



Registra	nts by Age
65+	913,327
55-64	645,715
45-54	645,715
35-44	890,521
25-34	783,228
18-24	385,00
15-17	71,189
≤14	3,803

Source: Donate Life Missouri Registry system, data does not include out-of-state registrants. (6.28.2024) Data is subject to change based on future data submissions or correction.

### Missouri Registrants

4,406,794

Source: Missouri Donor Registry System, does not include out-of-state registrants. (6.30.2024)

Registrants by Sex						
Female	Male					
2,325,974	2,080,820					
52.83%	<b>47.17</b> %					

Source: Donate Life Missouri Registry system, data does not include out-of-state registrants. (6.28.2024) Data is subject to change based on future data submissions or correction.

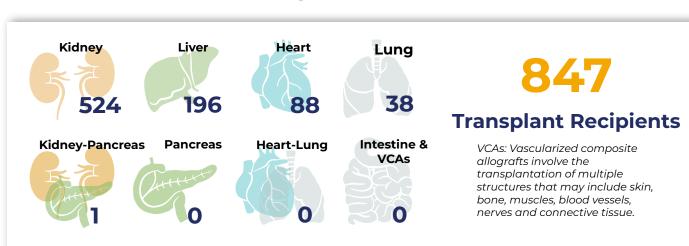
### **Total Registrants By Fiscal Year**



Source: Donate Life Missouri Registry system age distribution report. Data does not include out-of-state registrants. (6.28.2023) Data is subject to change based on future data submissions or correction.



### **Transplant Statistics**



Source: United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 Trnslants performed witin the U.S. whre recipient state of permanent residence at transplant is Missouri. (DATA0009583) Data is subject to change based on future data submissions or corrections.

### **Donor Heroes**

FY 22 FY 23 FY 24

Living Living Living

**Deceased Deceased**Deceased

415 412 407

Source: United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024. Donors recovered in the U.S., where the donor's home state is Missouri (DATA0009583). Data is subject to change based on future data submissions or correction.

### **Donors | Transplants**

FY 22 FY 23 FY 24

Donors Donors Donors

510 513 510

**Transplants Transplants Transplants** 

758 770 858

Source: United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024. (DATA0009583). Transplants performed in the U.S., where the recipient state of permanent residence at transplant is Missouri. Data is subject to change based on future data submissions or correction.

One deceased organ donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of 75 or more.

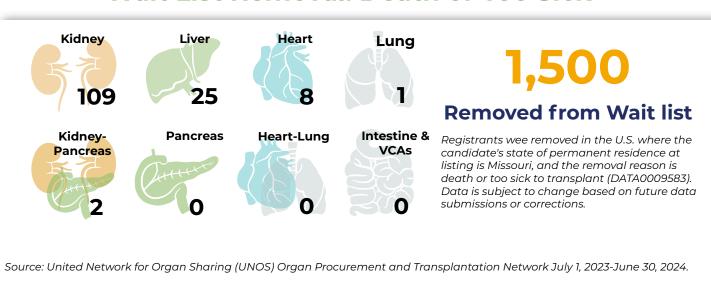


### A living donor can donate a kidney or part of their liver to help save a life.

Notes: All data in the Missouri Snapshot section reflects people whose permanent residence is or was Missouri. Some data in this report is from United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) data requests. The content is the responsibility of the authors alone and does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. Data from OPTN is based on the recipient or the donor information indicating that the individual's permanent residence or primary residence is Missouri. Data is subject to change due to future data submission or correction.

Missouri Wait List				
Organ	Individuals Waiting			
Heart-Lung	43			
Heart	43			
Intestine	4			
Kidney	1,265			
<b>Kidney-Pancreas</b>	44			
Liver	164			
Lung	9			
Pancreas	6			
Total*	1,500			

### Wait List Removal: Death or Too Sick





### Missouri Candidates Ever Waiting by Race/Ethnicity

	White, Non- Hispanic	Black, Non- Hispanic	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian, Hispanic/ Latino	Multiracial, Non- Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native, Non- Hispanic	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander, Non- Hispanic	Unknown	Organ Type Totals
Kidney	1,122	675	78	60	14	9	4	1	1,963
Kidney- Pancreas	3,423	23	1	0	1	0	0	0	59
Pancreas	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Liver	368	21	12	7	1	2	1	2	414
Heart	94	35	2	3	4	0	0	0	138
Lung	41	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	48
Intestine	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
*All Organs by Race/ Ethnicity	1,607	745	92	70	21	11	4	3	2,553

Source – United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. Candidates ever waiting in the U.S. where the candidates' state of permanent residence at listing is Missouri. \*Totals will be smaller than the sum of individual organ totals due to candidates listed for multiple organs. Example: If a candidate has two registrations, one for the liver and the other for the kidney, the candidate would be counted once, not twice. (DATA0009583) Data is subject to change based on future data submissions or corrections.

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Join us for the 2025 Donate Life Legacy Walk on Saturday, June 7. Learn more at https://mwtn.org/donate-life-legacy-walk/

## **Missouri License Offices**



### **FY 24 Recognition**

The local license offices with the highest percentage of registrations and contributions per transactions receives recognition in the form of a certificate and listing in the annual report. Offices receive awards on a quarterly and yearly basis. Each list below begins with the license office with the highest ranking.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Yearly	
Registrations	Registrations	Registrations	Registrations	Registrations	
Platte City	Pacific	Des Peres	Nixa	New London	
Des Peres	Platte City	Ozark	St. Genevieve	Fredericktown	
Excelsior Springs	Columbia South	Nixa	Des Peres	Houston	
Pacific	Excelsior Springs	Ste. Genevieve	Rock Port	Chesterfield	
Eldon	Nixa	Liberty	Excelsior Springs	Savannah	
Contributions	Contributions	Contributions	Contributions	Contributions	
Chesterfield	Salem	Salem	Salem	Chesterfield	
Salem	Perryville	Perryville	Lee's Summit	Lee's Summit	
South County	Ava	Montgomery City	Montgomery City	New London	
Imperial	Montgomery City	O'Fallon	O'Fallon	Savannah	
Perryville	Princeton	Lee's Summit	Perryville	Ava	

### **Percent of Change**

These tables reflect the highest percent of increase from the previous fiscal year for registrations and contributions. The calculation is by location and is independent of the contractor. A full report showing the percent of change for registrations by office over the previous fiscal year begins on page 23.

	Registrations		Contributions		
Office	County	Percent of Change	Office	County	Percent of Change
New London	Ralls	43.0	Chesterfield	St. Louis County	29.8
Fredericktown	Madison	22.8	Lee's Summit	Jackson	20.6
Houston	Texas	11.7	New London Bluff	Ralls	19.8
Chesterfield	St. Louis County	6.0	Savanna	Andrew	17.1
Savannah	Andrew	5.9	Ava	Douglas	13.7
Osceola	St. Clair	2.2	Excelsior Springs	Clay	13.4
Blue Springs	Jackson	2.0	Independence	Jackson	12.5
Jefferson City	Cole	2.0	Ste. Genevieve	Ste. Genevieve	10.7
Springfield	Greene	1.9	Salem	Dent	9.9
Independence	Jackson	1.8	Farmington	St. Francois	9.8

Note: Contractor change, office closure or new office during FY 23 or FY 24 may alter the percentage. Data is subject to change based on future data submission or correction.



### Participation by License Office by Ian Collins

According to the 2019 National Survey of Organ Donation Attitudes and Practices, the U.S. adult population supports organ donation; however, only 60% are actually registered donors. To every clerk that asks every individual if they want to be a registered donor, thank you. Your work helps record donor designations that save lives!

LIMITATIONS: Registry participation is for July 2023 through June 2024 and is based on the total transactions and number of individuals responding "yes" to being placed on the registry. Percentages are calculated by location independent of contractor. A contractor change, new office, or office closure may alter the percentage. Percent of change refers to change from the previous fiscal year.

Elsberry, Gallatin and Rogersville offices opened in 2024 and no comparison data is available. The Grant City, Fredericktown and Houston Offices were closed for a period of time either this fiscal year or the previous fiscal year skewing the percent of change. Data is subject to change based on future data submission or correction.

County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
ADAIR Kirksville ANDREW	49.77%	-6.5	CALDWELL Kingston	62.42%	-2.9
Savannah	58.80%	+11.2	CALLAWAY Fulton	52.15%	-7.3
ATCHISON Rock Port	59.49%	-6.3	CAMDEN Camdenton		-2.2
AUDRAIN Mexico	65.23%	+20.8	CAPE GIRARDEAU Cape Girardeau Jackson		+17.5 -5.1
BARRY Cassville Monett		-10.2 +3.2	CARROLL Carrollton	60.68%	+14.0
BARTON Lamar	56.97%	-5.0	CARTER Van Buren	43.04%	-11.1
BATES Butler	58.26%	-1.4	CASS Belton Harrisonville		-3.0 -2.0
BENTON Warsaw	50.35%	-4.6	CEDAR Stockton	54.63%	-3.8
BOLLINGER Marble Hill	43.76%	-6.0	CHARITON Keytesville	48.87%	-4.1
BOONE Columbia Columbia South		+2.2 -2.5	CHRISTIAN Nixa Ozark		-1.8 -4.2
BUCHANAN St. Joseph	57.63%	+10.9	CLARK Kahoka	58.07%	-2.9
BUTLER Poplar Bluff	47.23%	-9.9			



County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
CLAY			GRUNDY		
Excelsior Springs	64.72%	+0.1	Trenton	/, Q 7Q0/	+1.4
Gladstone		-3.0	TTETICOTT	40.7370	T1. <del>4</del>
Liberty	67.40%	-5.0 -5.1	LIADDICON		
North Kansas City	65.40% 58.16%	+22.1	HARRISON	(0.050/	<b>5</b> 0
North Narisas City	30.1070	' 22.1	Bethany	49.25%	-5.9
CLINTON			LIENDY		
Cameron	59.20%	-1.0	HENRY	<b>50.05</b> 0/	
Plattsburg		-5.4	Clinton	59.85%	+5.8
			LUCKODY		
COLE			HICKORY	<b>50 53</b> 0/	<b>-</b> -
Jefferson City	57.45%	-0.4	Hermitage	52.51%	-5.3
Jeff. City Mini Branc	:h 58.00%	-3.3			
000000			HOWARD		
COOPER	FF 600/		Fayette	54.84%	-4.0
Boonville	55.68%	-4.6			
CRAWFORD			HOWELL		
Cuba	EE 620/	2.7	Mountain View	46.35%	-4.4
Steelville		-2.3 -2.9	West Plains	62.35%	+18.8
Steerville	31.30%	-2.9	Willow Springs		-3.3
DADE					0.0
Greenfield	54 71%	-7.2	IRON		
Oreer in leid	J-1.7170	7.2	Arcadia Valley	4617%	-8.5
DALLAS			Viburnum		-13.6
Buffalo	48.34%	-4.8	VIDAITIATT	33.3370	-15.0
			JACKSON		
DAVIES				C1 /10/	+3.4
Gallatin*	55.34%	-6.9	Blue Springs		
			Grandview	43.60%	-5.2
DENT			Independence		+32.2
Salem	48.15%	-1.6	Kansas City		-4.1
			Lee's Summit		-1.3
DOUGLAS			Raytown		-12.7
Ava	44.08%	+1.2	Sugar Creek	52.82%	-5.1
DUNKLIN			JASPER		
Kennett	51 60%	+15.6	Carthage		-1.6
Malden		-4.9	Joplin		-1.4
Trididel I	10.2 170	1.5	Sarcoxie	51.35%	-7.18
FRANKLIN					
Pacific	66 63%	+0.4	JEFFERSON		
St. Clair		-1.7	Arnold	60.83%	+0.6
Union		-1.7 -4.9	DeSoto		-2.8
			High Ridge		-7.2
Washington	61.80%	-3.9	Imperial		-4.9
CACCONADE			Twin City		-0.3
GASCONADE	FO FO0/	. 0. 0	177111 3139		0.0
Hermann		+0.8	JOHNSON		
Owensville	51.79%	-5.9	Warrensburg	59.88%	-4.0
05) (50)			vvarierisbarg	33.0070	٦.٥
GENTRY			KNOX		
Stanberry	59.65%	-4.0	Edina	46 Q1%	-6.1
			EUII Id	<del>4</del> 0.3170	-0.1
GREENE			LACIEDE		
Glenstone		0.0	LACLEDE	F3 CF0/	2.0
Republic		-3.7	Lebanon	52.6/%	-2.6
South Springfield	59.45%	-3.9	L A E A \		
Springfield		+3.8	LAFAYETTE	EE 370/	<b>-</b> -
. 3			Lexington	55.13%	-3.5



County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
LAWRENCE Aurora Mount Vernon		+2.5 -4.3	NEW MADRID New Madrid	37.94%	-12.45
LEWIS Monticello	59.26%	-6.0	NEWTON Neosho	53.66%	-2.1
LINCOLN Elsberry* Troy	57.24% 58.70%	+18.5 +29.8	NODAWAY Maryville	57.11%	-1.7
LINN Brookfield		-2.8	OREGON Alton OSAGE		+0.6
LIVINGSTON			Linn OZARK Gainesville		-3.7 -0.7
Chillicothe MACON		-4.4	PEMISCOT  Caruthersville	42.30%	+0.4
Macon MADISON	54.69%	-4.4	PERRY Perryville	51.37%	-0.2
Fredericktown MARIES	48.52%	+90.5	PETTIS Sedalia	49.60%	-0.6
Vienna MARION Hannibal		-5.8 -4.1	PHELPS Rolla	51.10%	0.0
Palmyra		+0.3	PIKE Bowling Green		-3.1
Pineville	49.50%	+0.6	Louisiana PLATTE	50.56%	-3.4
MERCER Princeton	50.59%	+0.6	Parkville Platte City		+16.7 -3.0
MILLER Eldon	60.53%	-2.8	POLK Bolivar	54.64%	-5.4
MISSISSIPPI Charleston	38.09%	-6.5	PULASKI Waynesville	52.11%	-5.2
MONITEAU California	55.63%	-6.1	PUTNAM Unionville	36.80%	-28.2
MONROE Monroe City Paris		-7.6 -1.4	RALLS New London	59.14%	+5.6
MONTGOMERY Montgomery City	58.38%	-7.5	RANDOLPH Moberly	69.74%	+22.9
MORGAN Versailles	52.91%	-1.2	RAY RichmondREYNOLDS	52.94%	-0.9
			Ellington	38.38%	-16.6



County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
RIPLEY			STODDARD		
Doniphan	42.90%	-3.7	Dexter	48.29%	-5.1
SALINE			STONE		
Marshall SCOTLAND	47.72%	-3.7	Branson West Crane		-2.1 -9.2
Memphis	42.62%	-4.6		3 1.0070	3.2
SCOTT Chaffee	52 66%	-2.2	SULLIVAN Milan	44 00%	-3.1
Sikeston		-1.9		1 11.0070	0.1
SHANNON			TANEY Branson	51.82%	-5.2
Eminence	43.82%	-4.0	Forsyth		+0.2
SHELBY			TEXAS		
Shelbina	53.51%	-5.1	Houston*	48.28%	+32.1
ST CHARLES			VERNON		
Harvester		-1.6	Nevada	54.40%	-4.2
O'Fallon St. Charles		+2.0 -1.4	WARREN		
Wentzville		-7.0	Warrenton	58.25%	+1.8
ST CLAIR			WASHINGTON		
Osceola	49.14%	-9.9	Potosi	53.60%	+21.8
ST FRANCOIS			WAYNE		
Bonne Terre		-5.3	Piedmont	42.96%	-9.5
Farmington	46.42%	-6.3	WEBSTER  Marshfield	55.81%	-2.6
ST LOUIS			Rogersville		New*
Affton		+2.2	)		
Bridgeton Chesterfield	32.37%	-4.0 +1.6	WORTH Grant City	Classel	
Clayton		+3.2	WRIGHT	Closed	
Creve Coeur	45.46%	-14.3	Hartville	43.80%	-4.5
Des Peres		-3.8	Mountain Grove		-16.9
Florissant	29.35%	-20.7			
Maplewood		-0.7			
North County		-11.7 			
Oakville		+13.1			
Olivette Overland		0.0 -4.2	*New office, no data to comp	oare	
South County		+0.1			
West County		-2.4			
ST LOUIS CITY					
Central West End		-15.4			
Downtown		-57.8			
South Kingshighwa	y. 34.39%	-12.2			
STE. GENEVIEVE	60 / 60/	0.0			
Ste. Genevieve	62.46%	+0.8			

# **Give Life**

### **Missouri Organ and Tissue Donor Program**

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services P.O. Box 570 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 573-522-2847 or toll-free 888-497-4564

> **DonateLifeMissouri.org** Health.Mo.Gov/OrganDonor





Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or have a speech disability can dial 711 or 1-800-735-2966.

